

HAK  
SCOWCROFT  
LL

FBIS 103

BRITISH PAPER CLAIMS MOSCOW WARNED TEL AVIV OF ATTACK

L091325 LONDON DAILY EXPRESS IN ENGLISH 9 OCT 73 P 1 L

(CHAPMAN PINCHER ARTICLE: "MOSCOW TIPPED OFF TEL AVIV")

(TEXT) IN AN ASTONISHING POLITICAL MOVE, THE RUSSIANS GAVE ISRAEL THREE DAY'S WARNING OF THE ARAB ATTACK.

THE KREMLIN HAS NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL.

SO THE WARNING THAT EGYPT AND SYRIA WERE PLANNING TO LAUNCH A MAJOR OFFENSIVE WAS GIVEN THROUGH A FRENCH INTERMEDIARY, IT WAS DISCLOSED LAST NIGHT.

THE KREMLIN, WHICH DOES NOT WANT OPEN WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST, HOPED THAT IF THE ISRAELIS REACTED BY IMMEDIATE MOBILIZATION THE ARABS WOULD SCRAP THEIR PLANS.

ADVISERS (SUBHEAD)

BUT EITHER THE ISRAELIS MISJUDGED THE PRECISE TIMING OF THE ASSAULT OR THEY DECIDED THAT IT WOULD SUIT THEM POLITICALLY TO LET THE ARABS ATTACK AND BE BRANDED A SFOOLHARDY AGGRESSORS.

THE KREMLIN TIP-OFF CAME ON THURSDAY AFTER RUSSIAN MOVES TO PERSUADE THE ARABS NOT TO ATTACK WERE REBUFFED.

THE RUSSIANS ORGANIZED A MASSIVE AIRLIFT OF 20 FLIGHTS TO EVACUATE THEIR FAMILIES FROM EGYPT AND SYRIA, DOING IT IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE ISRAELIS WERE BOUND TO SEE ITS SIGNIFICANCE.

THESE FACTS, GIVEN EXCLUSIVELY TO THE DAILY EXPRESS BY A TOP-LEVEL SOURCE, CONFIRM THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT'S CLAIM THAT IT WAS NOT TAKEN COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE.

FOR ONCE THE ARAB ATTACK WAS LAUNCHED THE ISRAELI ORDER OF THE DAY WAS: DEFEAT THE SYRIANS FIRST, THEN TURN ROUND AND CLOBBER THE EGYPTIANS.

9 OCT 1546Z PK/WP